

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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JERSEY CITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK Jersey City Non-Profits: Building Collaborations

JERSEY CITY -- Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, and the Department of Housing, Economic Development & Commerce/Division of Community Development celebrate National Community Development Week - Jersey City: Non-Profits Building Collaborations at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the Liberty National Golf Course, 100 Caven Point Road.

Hosted annually by the **Jersey City Division of Community Development, National Community Development Week - Jersey City: Non-Profits Building Collaborations**, held the week of **April 12 – 18**, creates collaborations between Jersey City non-profit agencies, raises awareness of various foundations and additional funding sources, creates an atmosphere where non-profits can network, and acknowledges accomplishments of various non-profit agencies within Jersey City. The event showcases local activities and projects assisted with **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** funds which are made available through the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**. These CDBG funds are often augmented with various other resources to provide a greater impact on the local communities' housing and community development needs.

“This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant Program,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Through **CDBG**, economic development, housing, infrastructure and public service projects have been possible throughout our City. Programs such as these are instrumental to the progress of our City and therefore it is critical we raise awareness about the CDBG program which addresses the needs of our communities and impacts so many lives.”

The event is a full-day program focusing on the various ways non-profit agencies can create stronger collaborations to better benefit the residents of Jersey City. An awards ceremony will be held to recognize non-profit agencies and its directors for the significant difference in the Jersey City. This year's honorees are: Diane Coleman, Director, Building an Empire, Inc; Lillian Hernandez, Executive Director, Dress for Success Hudson County; and Helen Castillo, Executive Director, Philippine American Friendship Committee, Inc.

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The **Division of Community Development** is responsible for the administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's entitlement grants – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Grant (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI). In addition, DCD administers the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) under the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

Through these funding sources, DCD is responsible for the development and rehabilitation of housing and public facilities throughout Jersey City and delivers various public services by contracting and/or collaborating with public and not-for-profit organizations.

Community Development Week is an annual campaign designed to focus local and national attention on the numerous outstanding accomplishments of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. National Community Development Week provides an ideal opportunity to educate citizens at the local level as well as members of Congress regarding the Community Development Block Grant and its critical importance in the lives of low and moderate income citizens.

This event celebrates the signing into law of the Housing and Community Development Act on August 22, 1974 which created the CDBG program which continues to be the most flexible and successful Federal program for community development. The CDBG program is among the few flexible sources of federal funds that remain available to rural governments for community development. Projects must primarily benefit low-and moderate-income persons.

During the celebratory event, the Division of Community Development (DCD) will have a training facilitated by a professional consultant. The training will include the following points:

- How collaborations help to build stronger agencies
- How collaborations can help the community
- How collaborations can help agencies secure additional funds

Following the training, the Division of Community Development will have three (3) foundations briefly speak about their organization, available funding and the importance of collaborations.

Afterwards, agencies will have an opportunity to briefly network before the luncheon and awards ceremony. During the awards ceremony, DCD will present awards to specific agencies to acknowledge program accomplishments.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///